DOCKET NO.: 240316US0X CONT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

Michele BORTOLOTTI et al

SERIAL NO.: NEW APPLICATION

FILED: HEREWITH

FOR: ELASTOMERIC COMPOSITION USEFUL AS TIRE TREADS

PETITION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.103(a)

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Applicants hereby request a suspension of action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for a period of six (6) months from the filing date of the continuation application of U.S. Serial Number 09/431,223 under 37 C.F.R. §1.103(a).

Applicants are in the process of conducting further comparative tests along the lines suggested by the Examiner in the comments by the Examiner on the Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.132 given in the Official Action mailed May 7, 2003. The requested suspension of action will result in the preparation and filing of a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.132 before the expiration of the requested six (6) month suspension of action.

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The fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(h) accompanies the Petition.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER, & NEUSTADT, P.C.

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